



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SHOW LOW WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON IN CONNECTION WITH HIGH SPEED CHASE ON INDIAN RESERVATION

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced today that Barbara Helen Nikolaus, 43, of Show Low, Az., was sentenced to 57 months of imprisonment, by United States District Judge Robert C. Broomfield, in Phoenix, Arizona. Upon her release from custody, she will be placed on supervised release for a period of 3 years. She must serve a minimum of 85% of her sentence before she is eligible for release from prison. She also faces state charges in connection with fleeing from DPS officers.

On December 9, 2000 the defendant was engaged in a high speed pursuit from a Department of Public Safety Officer, because she knew she had active warrants. As she sped through the White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation at speeds of up to 80 miles per hour, Tribal Officer Lucky Tortice, who was on duty, joined the chase. Officer Tortice was a cross-deputized BIA federal officer. At some point, Officer Tortice attempted to stop her, but even though she was aware of the officer's attempts, she knowingly failed to stop. Eventually, her car struck Officer Tortice's car causing it to go off the highway and roll.

Nikolaus had entered a plea of guilty on November 7, 2001 to a charge of Assault on a Federal Officer.

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The investigation in this case was conducted by White Mountain Apache Police Department, Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Ft. Apache Indian Agency.

The prosecution was handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-080-PHX-RCB
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